

Tests: a step to your valid NJ driver license

EYESIGHT CHECK. Eyesight screening is required for all drivers. MVS may refer applicants with impaired vision to a physician.

WRITTEN TEST. The written test consists of 30 questions plus a survey question about the Anatomical Gift Act. Samples of questions are at the end of this chapter. MVS gives the written test in English and these foreign languages: Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Rumanian, Russian, Spanish, Turkish and Vietnamese. If you cannot read in any language, you may arrange to have an oral test that is conducted in English or Spanish. If you are unable to take an oral or written test in the languages provided, or are hearing impaired, you may use an MVS approved interpreter according to the following guidelines.

Interpreters

An approved foreign language interpreter is:

- a full-time faculty member of a college or university in the United States who displays a current identification card issued by that college or university; or
- a priest, minister, rabbi or other religious leader of a recognized organization who displays credentials showing his/her association in such an organization; or
- an individual with an interpreter identification card issued by the U.S. Department of State, Office of Language Services.

An approved hearing impaired interpreter is:

- an interpreter certified by the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, and listed with the New Jersey Division of the Deaf.



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- an interpreter who has been evaluated by the Division of the Deaf and is on the approved list of professional interpreters.

Motor Vehicle Services will pay the interpreter fees for hearing impaired applicants. Contact any driver testing center for more information about approved interpreters or fee payments.

Test requirements

Screening tests	Minimum requirements
Eyesight	Basic license applicants: 20/50 vision with or without glasses. For sight in one eye only, that eye must meet the 20/50 rule. CDL license applicants: 20/40 vision with or without glasses in both eyes. Must have 70 degrees of peripheral vision in each eye, and must distinguish among red, green and amber lights.
Written	80% or 24 of the 30 questions must have correct answers.
Health	Inform examiner of health problems. Under federal law, commercial drivers must carry a medical examiner's fitness statement and have it renewed every two years.

If out-of-state or out-of-country applicants pass the written test, their results are valid for one year; for GDL applicants the results are valid for two years.

Vision recheck

Periodically, MVS may require a vision recheck of New Jersey drivers. You'll be able to renew your license after you pass the vision screening.

Health questions

If there's a health problem, you may need a health review. The examiner will discuss this with you.

Health restrictions

MVS puts restrictions in code on your permit and later on your driver license. They are (1) corrective lenses required, (2) prosthetic device, (3) mechanical device, (4) hearing impaired, and (5) attached restrictions. This last category applies to special modifications to your vehicle or limited driver privileges for a medical condition.

Road tests

After applicants pass the written and vision tests, MVS will validate their permits so they can practice. Out-of-state or out-of-country applicants have 20 days minimum and GDL permit holders have 3-6 months maximum. You must wait 20 days before you can take your road test. Just go to a driver testing center to make the appointment for an initial road test or retest. Phone calls are not acceptable.

For the final test necessary to get your New Jersey driver license, be sure you have a vehicle with a current inspection sticker for the test; a current registration document for that vehicle; a current insurance card for that vehicle (unless covered by P.U.C. or federal DOT regulations); a valid examination permit; and a driver to accompany you. The driver must hold a license to operate the type of vehicle that you've made application to drive (except for MOPED).

You may drive a properly registered vehicle to the road test area. However, a licensed driver must remain in the vehicle with you at all times. Do not move the vehicle, even in the road test line, without a licensed driver. If the accompanying driver is licensed in a state other than New Jersey, s/he must drive the vehicle to the road test area. MVS does not supply vehicles for road tests.

Vehicles registered out-of-state must comply with their home state's law about insurance identification.

On the actual road test, a safety specialist will ride with you when you drive in an off-road test area or on a public road course. The purpose of the road test is to make sure that you understand the rules of the road and that you can drive safely. If your car has a standard transmission, the examiner will ask you to demonstrate your ability to correctly shift gears.

During the basic road test, the examiner may test you on the following items:

Test item	Page	Test item	Page
Driving in reverse	35	Stopping at signs	45
Following other vehicles	58, 59	Stopping on downgrades and upgrades	35
Nearing corners, intersections	40, 41, 54	Stopping smoothly	32, 33
Parking (parallel)	36	Turning	34
Sitting properly	30	Turning around	34, 35
Starting a vehicle	30, 31	Using the horn	29
Steering properly	31, 32	Yielding right-of-way	40

If you pass the road test, the examiner will issue an authorization slip for licensing. Take the permit and authorization slip to a motor vehicle agency to obtain your license. Your first NJ license must be a photo license. MVS will license all successful candidates for a class D basic driver license or class E motorcycle license as probationary drivers if they have never been licensed to drive a motor vehicle in this or any other state and monitor their driving habits for two years.

If you fail the road test, you must wait at least two weeks before taking the test again. To reschedule the test, go to the same driver testing center or another center (listed in the back of this manual) in person. After several failures, MVS may require that you wait six months before retaking the road test.



Reasons for rejection

Most applicants are convinced that their driving performance is the only criteria the examiner uses to grade their road test. The vehicle may be the cause of your failure. Some license applicants fail their initial road test without ever stepping on the gas because driver examiners consider the vehicle unsuitable or unsafe for the test.

Here are some of the more common reasons MVS rejects road test vehicles:

Automobile

- Improper, expired or no **inspection sticker**
- a center console, air conditioner, radio or other equipment in a position that prevents the examiner from reaching the foot or parking brakes.
- Any **defect or condition** that affects the safe operation of the test vehicle, such as, but not limited to:
 - poor brakes (pedal must not fade or go to the floorboard)
 - parking brake doesn't work
 - unsafe tires (smooth, cut, badly worn)
 - vehicle interior is not in reasonably clean condition.
 - vehicle failed inspection, and driver does not bring the card issued by the inspection station to road test area.
 - vehicle not equipped with radial tires or snow tires or chains when road is snow covered.
 - fast engine idle (cannot judge speed control).
 - missing seat belts. Seat belts are required on all vehicles manufactured after July 1, 1966.

Additional items for motorcycle and MOPED tests only

- Lack of equipment required by state regulations
- No helmet
- Unapproved goggles or face shield
- No bell or horn (but not a siren or whistle) that can be heard 100 feet away
(See the commercial vehicle manual for more specifics on those types of vehicles.)



Sample written test*

The following test is an example of the questions on the written driver test. All answers to the questions are contained in this manual.

*see p.139 for the answer key

Example: A driver approaching a flashing red traffic signal must:

- a. slow down at the light
 - b. drive carefully without stopping
 - c. merge to the right
 - d. **stop before entering the intersection**
1. **In New Jersey, persons under 21 years of age are considered under the influence (DUI) when their BAC is:**
 - a. .01
 - b. .05
 - c. .10
 - d. all of the above
 2. **You can practice drive with a valid special learner's permit:**
 - a. between 12:01 a.m. and 5 a.m.
 - b. between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.
 - c. between 5 a.m. and 11 p.m.
 - d. anytime
 3. **In New Jersey, you must be at least __ years old to register a motor vehicle.**
 - a. 17
 - b. 16
 - c. 15
 - d. 21
 4. **As you drive, you're required to stop your vehicle:**
 - a. at an intersection with a stop sign
 - b. where there is a red light
 - c. when a traffic officer orders you to stop
 - d. all of the above
 5. **As you drive, you must turn your headlights on:**
 - a. when you turn your wipers on
 - b. one-half hour after sunset
 - c. one-half hour before sunrise
 - d. all of the above
 6. **You must yield for emergency vehicles:**
 - a. never
 - b. when you see a flashing red or blue light or hear a siren
 - c. only when other vehicles yield
 - d. none of the above
 7. **You may drive on public or private property to avoid a traffic sign or signal:**
 - a. only if the driver stops the vehicle before crossing the sidewalk
 - b. only with permission of the property owner
 - c. anytime
 - d. when directed to do so by a police officer
 8. **It is important to slow down:**
 - a. on narrow or winding roads
 - b. at intersections or railroad crossings

- c. when the road is wet or slippery
 - d. all of the above
9. **Vehicle stopping distances never depend on:**
- a. your own reaction time
 - b. the time of day
 - c. condition of your vehicle's brakes
 - d. condition and type of vehicle tires
10. **You needn't stop your vehicle for a frozen dessert truck when:**
- a. it shows flashing red lights
 - b. it shows a stop signal arm
 - c. a person is crossing the roadway to or from the frozen dessert truck
 - d. on a dual highway if you're on the other side of a safety island or median from the frozen dessert truck
11. **When driving on major highways:**
- a. stay alert
 - b. keep your eyes moving
 - c. be ready to react to road hazards
 - d. all of the above
12. **When driving in bad weather, increase the two-second rule to:**
- a. one minute
 - b. six to eight seconds
 - c. three to four seconds
 - d. none of the above
13. **MVS may terminate your road test before it starts because of:**
- a. an unsafe vehicle
 - b. a center console or other equipment in your vehicle that obstructs the examiner's access to the brake pedal
 - c. missing seat belts
 - d. all of the above
14. **The Implied Consent Law is:**
- a. permission for someone to drive your vehicle
 - b. all passengers must wear their seat belts
 - c. you agree to a breath test when under arrest and suspected of drinking and driving
 - d. none of the above
15. **If a collision is possible, you should:**
- a. choose to hit something that will give way rather than something that's rigid
 - b. choose to hit something that's standing still rather than something moving toward you
 - c. if you have to hit anything, try to make it a glancing blow or a sideswipe
 - d. all of the above
16. **If your windshield wipers stop suddenly during rain or snow you should:**
- a. slow down
 - b. roll down the driver's side window and put your head out so you can see ahead

- c. brake and pull off the road
 - d. all of the above
17. **What are some telltale signs of a drunk driver?**
- a. weaving between lanes
 - b. driving slower than the normal traffic flow
 - c. quick and sudden stops
 - d. all of the above
18. **A 5-ounce glass of wine contains the same amount of alcohol as:**
- a. one pint of whiskey
 - b. a gallon of wine
 - c. a 6-pack of beer
 - d. one 12-ounce can of beer
19. **To obtain a New Jersey driver license or nondriver ID card, you must present these identifiers:**
- a. proof of age
 - b. proof of identity
 - c. proof of citizenship
 - d. proof of age, identity and that your presence in this country is authorized under federal law
20. **If you are driving behind a school bus and it shows a flashing red light signaling a stop, you must:**
- a. stop at least 25 feet away
 - b. slow down to 10 mph
 - c. speed up and pass
 - d. stop directly behind the bus



Study questions for Part 1

1. What three items must you have with you when driving?
2. How old must you be to get a basic driver license?
3. How much time do you have to notify the MVS after (a) an address change and (b) a name change?
4. If you move to New Jersey, how long do you have to transfer your driver license?
5. What tests must you pass to get your examination permit validated?

Answers:

1. A valid learner's permit, examination permit, provisional license or basic license, the current vehicle registration and the vehicle insurance identification card.
2. 18.
3. Address change is one week and name change is two weeks.
4. For a basic license, 60 days or until your out-of-state driver license expires, whichever is less; for a CDL, 30 days.
5. Eyesight and written.